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A

HISTORY OF THE INTRODUCTION AND USE OF **SCUTELLARIA LATERIFLORA,** (SCULLCAP,)

AS A
REMEDY FOR PREVENTING AND CURING
HYDROPHOBIA,
Occasioned by the Bite of Rabid Animals;
WITH
CASES.

ACCOMPANIED WITH A PLATE OF THE PLANT.

BY LYMAN SPALDING, M. D.

READ BEFORE THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW-YORK, ss.

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the twenty-seventh day of October, in the forty fourth year of the Independence of the United States of America, WILLIAM TREADWELL, of the said district, hath deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as Proprietor, in the words and figures following, to wit:

A History of the Introduction and Use of Scutellaria Lateriflora, (Scullcap) as a Remedy for Preventing and Curing Hydrophobia, occasioned by the bite of Rabid Animals; with Cases. Accompanied with a plate of the plant. By Lyman Spalding, M. D. Read before the New-York Historical Society, September 14, 1819.

In conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled "An Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the time therein mentioned." And also to an Act, entitled "an Act, supplementary to an Act, entitled an Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints.

GILBERT LIVINGSTON THOMPSON,
Clerk of the Southern District of New-York.
By WILLIAM IRONSIDE, Dep'y. Clerk.



Description of the Plant.

SCUTELLARIA LATERIFLORA Pursh. G. 490. sp. 1.
Didynamia, Gymnospermia.—Nat. ord. LABIATAE.

Gen. ch. Calyx ore integro, post florescentiam clauso, operculato.
Corollae tubus elongatus.

Sp. ch. Ramosissima, glabriuscula; foliis longissime petiolatis ovatis
dentatis; caulinis subcordatis, racemis lateralibus foliosis.

The following popular description is subjoined, to enable ordinary
herbalists to find it.

The sculcap grows in moist, shady places in most parts of America, from Canada to Carolina; it is from one to three feet high, bearing small blue flowers, and blossoms from the latter end of July to September. It belongs to the same order of plants as the catmint, sage, mint, horehound, hyssop, &c. (the Labiatæ) which are distinguished by the following characters, viz: the flowers two-lipped; the stamens four in number; two long and two short; the style single; the calyx persistant, containing four naked seeds; and the stalk quadrangular, with the branches and leaves opposite.

Generic characters of Scutellaria—*Calyx* or flower cup small, terminated by two entire lips, which, after flowering, close and cover the seed with an orbicular lid; on the upper side of the tube of the calyx is a small process, which from some fancied resemblance to a shield has given name to the plant. After florescence, and as the seed advance to maturity, this enlarges and becomes a prominent part of the calyx. *Corolla*; two tipped, the upper one compressed at its sides and arched; it is three cleft, with the middle lobe much the largest; the lower lip broader than the upper one, and slightly notched; the tube of the corolla long, and somewhat bent at its lower extremity.

Pursh gives nine species of the American sculcap. The *lateriflora*, of which we are speaking, is distinguished from the others by the branched character of the herb, its oval, serrated, sharp-pointed leaves supported on long petioles or leaf-stalks, (this last character serves to distinguish it from the two species which most nearly resemble it, viz. the *nervosa* and the *galericulata*, which have the leaves sessile or nearly so, attached to the stalk without a petiole,) the lower leaves are subcordate, or somewhat heart-shaped. The *fructification* (whence the specific name of the plant is derived) proceeds from the axilla or base of each of the leaves of the branches. It is a raceme, of which the garden currant is an example, and consists of a long peduncle, supporting, as on a common axis, the flowers ranged on it singly, by means of short equal pedicelles. The whole plant is perfectly bare, void of any furze or down, of a light green or glaucous colour, and in its general appearance, not unlike the common mint (*mentha sativa*)—The stalk near the root is reddish, and the fibres of the root, on being washed, are of a pale yellow.

A

HISTORY

OF THE USE OF

SCUTELLARIA LATERIFLORA.



THE first person, so far as we have been able to learn, who used the scutellaria, as a preventive of hydrophobia from the bite of rabid animals, was doctor Lawrence Van Derveer, of Roysfield, Hillsborough township, Somerset county, New-Jersey. The doctor was graduated at Nassau-Hall College, New-Jersey, in 1761; and afterwards received a regular medical education. He commenced the practice of his profession in New-Jersey, where he began to use the scutellaria as a preventive of hydrophobia as early as the year 1773. He, afterwards, removed to Virginia, and pursued his profession, for a short time, near Shepherdstown, Berkley county, in that state, but soon returned to his former residence in New-Jersey. The doctor died in November, 1815, and it cannot now be ascertained from whom he obtained a knowledge of the antidotal powers of the scutellaria. It has been suggested, as probable, that he became acquainted with the virtues of this plant, during his residence in Virginia: but this cannot be

correct, since he was known to have used it in New-Jersey, before he removed thither; besides, on a reference to the many nostrums which have been celebrated for preventing hydrophobia, we do not find that scutellaria had been used either in Virginia, or in any other place previous to its employment by the doctor. Our inquiries do not lead us to believe that the doctor kept his remedy a profound secret, although he has been accused of it by many; but so much do medical men despise what they consider vulgar specifics, and so little faith do the public place in them, that this remedy, for forty years, was scarcely known, or heard of, beyond the doctor's immediate circle of practice. It was from these circumstances that no one had the curiosity to ask this gentleman how *he* came by a knowledge of the antidotal powers of scutellaria. From the upright unassuming character of doctor Van Derveer, his correct moral deportment, and regular medical standing, we are led to believe that he would as frankly have communicated the source of his information, as the remedies used.

Among the many persons, to whom he communicated a knowledge of his remedies, may be numbered doctors Morris, Kinney, Little, Henry, and Bloomfield, of the revolutionary army; doctor Henry Schenck, sen. Daniel Lewis, and doctor Henry Van Derveer.

The doctor probably did not keep notes of the cases in which he used the scullcap; as, at this time, none are to be found by his family. It is asserted, however, that he had administered it to about four

hundred persons; in none of whom, excepting the following, did any symptoms of hydrophobia appear.

About thirty years ago, two persons, of Monmouth county, were bitten by a rabid cat; they both applied to doctor Van Derveer, and he gave them the scullcap. One of them took it, according to directions, and suffered nothing from the bite; the other, by accident, lost almost the whole of his infusion, and could not be prevailed on to procure any more; because, from the smallness of the wound, and other circumstances, he supposed there was no danger. On the 23d day after the bite, this man was brought to doctor Van Derveer, in the last stage of hydrophobia, and died in eight hours after his arrival.

Extract of a letter from Dr. Henry Van Derveer, dated September 3, 1819.—“The widow Bess, near Germantown, Hunterdon county, was bitten on the hand by a small house dog, which afterwards died rabid. The wound healed in a few days. On the thirteenth day after the accident, she was seized with pain and swelling in the part, which extended along the arm to the breast, and to one side of the neck. She became melancholy, and was but little inclined to conversation, although naturally of a lively turn of mind. She was brought to my father on the first day of her indisposition. The family and myself recollect noticing her unusual appearance. Her eyes were at one time, full and vacant; at another, prominent, fierce, and wandering from one object to another. The peculiar expression of her countenance made a deep impression on my mind, which will never be eradicated: although it is

difficult for me to draw a just picture of her features. These appearances did not probably arise from terror or anxiety of mind, as she was not apprehensive of danger, not knowing that the dog had died rabid; and, it was with difficulty that she could be prevailed upon to apply for medical aid. My father gave her very freely of the sculcap, and she recovered her usual health in a week's time. Dr. Henry M. Van Solingen, of your city, was present when some of the particulars of the above case were related by a gentleman, who resided near Mrs. Bess at the time of the accident. To the doctor I can refer you for the opinions of well informed gentlemen in Mrs. Bess' neighbourhood. My father was fully persuaded, that, in this instance, the symptoms of hydrophobia had commenced; and, whenever he spoke of this case, he appeared to be gratified with the recollection, that this woman, by the use of the sculcap, was rescued from one of the most horrible deaths in the catalogue of human afflictions."

Doctor Van Derveer was called to visit a young woman living near Rahway, in New-Jersey, who had been attended by another physician; and, in whom hydrophobic symptoms had so far advanced, before doctor Van Derveer saw her, as, in his opinion, to preclude all human aid. She took of the scutellaria, but it did not cure the disease. She died rabid.* The doctor was of opinion, that, several persons for whom he prescribed his remedy in the early part of his practice, had some of the symptoms of hydro-

* See Medical Repository, Hex. III. vol. ii.—Doctor Henry Van Derveer, in his letter to me of the 3d September says, "the disease had advanced so far as to preclude the possibility of giving any of the sculcap."

phobia; and, that they were removed by a free use of the plant.

Doctor Van Derveer made more than an hundred experiments on the antidotal powers of the scullcap; in each of which, the remedy was given to a part of the bitten animals, none of these were afflicted with hydrophobia; but in every instance some of the animals, which did not take the scullcap, died rabid. We will notice some of these experiments.

Doctor Henry Schenck, sen. of Shannock Hills, Somerset county, New-Jersey, informs, that in the year 1777, two black persons, and five hogs, belonging to Mr. James Van Derveer of that county, were bitten by a mad dog. Doctor Van Derveer prescribed the scutellaria, which was administered, by our informant, to the two blacks, and to four of the hogs, neither of which had any symptoms of hydrophobia; but, the fifth hog, which was the least injured, and which did not take the plant, died in a rabid state, about the 19th day after the accident.

This experiment, made for the express purpose of testing the antidotal powers of the scullcap, was witnessed by doctors Morris, Kinney, Little, Henry, and Bloomfield; who considered it as having been satisfactorily conducted.

Extract of a letter from doctor Henry Van Derveer, dated 3d September, 1819.—“About the year 1814, seven cattle belonging to George Schenck, Redington, Hunterdon county, New-Jersey, were bitten by a mad dog. The scullcap was given to six of them, neither of which had any indisposition; but the seventh, which did not take the plant died

of hydrophobia, three or four weeks after it was bitten."

"It is impossible to determine," says the doctor in the same letter, "to what number of animals my father gave the scullcap. I should however say, that it was not less than one thousand, and in no instance has an animal, to which he gave the plant, died of hydrophobia. In more than an hundred cases my father experimented with the scutellaria; and he has repeatedly told his medical brethren, that each experiment was successful, and tended to establish the antidotal powers of the plant."

About this time doctor Thomas Steel, of Belleville, New-Jersey, formerly a surgeon in the British army, was in the habit of using the scutellaria; and it is reported that he prescribed it in many cases with success.*

Doctor Henry Van Derveer, son of the gentleman formerly named, inhabits the residence of his late father in New-Jersey. He, in the course of three years practice, has given the scutellaria to about forty persons. The most interesting of his cases are the following:

In the year 1816, seven persons on board a fishing boat, in the Delaware river, were bitten by a puppy. The animal soon showed other, and well-marked symptoms of hydrophobia, which induced the people to kill him. To six of these persons the doctor

* The boy Opie, whose case is detailed in the Medical Repository, vol. v. p. 75, and who died of hydrophobia, "was first sent to a person in New-Jersey, who was said to possess a remedy preventive of hydrophobia. By him he was treated, and had some internal remedies administered." Doctor Rodgers, the attending physician, and narrator of the case, has recently told me, that he understood the boy was sent to doctor Steel, and he presumed that he took the scullcap.

gave the scullcap, and they all escaped the disease. The seventh, a lad, went to Philadelphia, and died of hydrophobia, about the 14th day after having been bitten.

In the year 1817, three persons in the family of the widow Elizabeth Mershall, George's Road, below New-Brunswick, were bitten by a dog belonging to the family; and, at the same time, the dog bit two cows. Two of the persons bitten came immediately to doctor Van Derveer, who gave them the scutellaria, and they suffered no inconvenience from the accident. The third made application to a person by the name of Davis, more generally known by the title of "Indian Physician." On the 17th day after this man was bitten, he became alarmed by a swelling and considerable pain in the injured arm, extending to his breast and side of the neck. He had no spasms, nor any aversion to fluids. Doctor Van Derveer, at this time, prescribed a very strong infusion of the scutellaria, which the patient drank in as large quantities as his stomach would retain. In thirty-six hours all those symptoms vanished; he, however, continued the remedy till he recovered. Both of the cows died rabid.

About a year since, a gentleman was bitten on the hand, by a mad dog, which bit two cattle, and two hogs. The man, and one of the hogs took the scullcap, and neither of them had any indisposition. The cattle and the other hog did not take the plant, and they died of hydrophobia.

Not long since a negro girl, four hogs, and a cow were bitten, at Bedminster, Somerset county, by a

rabid animal. The scutellaria was given only to the girl, and she had no indisposition. The animals took nothing, and died of hydrophobia.

The above information respecting the use of the scutellaria by doctor Lawrence Van Derveer, and by his son doctor Henry Van Derveer, was communicated to me by the latter gentleman, and by John Vancleve, M. D. of Princeton, New-Jersey.

*An Account of the Use of SCUTELLARIA LATERIFLORA,
by the Lewises, of West Chester county, New-York.*

MR. DANIEL LEWIS, of North-Castle, West-Chester county, New-York, by occupation a weaver, was bitten by a mad dog about the year 1783, near Elizabethtown, in New-Jersey. He came to the city of New-York for medical aid; where he learned that doctor Lawrence Van Derveer, of New-Jersey, possessed an antidote to hydrophobia.

Mr. Lewis visited doctor Van Derveer, who showed him the scutellaria, and gave him a quantity of it in a dried state, with written directions for its use, and for his own government during the cure. A copy of these directions has been recently procured by Mr. Coleman, from the son of Daniel Lewis, and published in the Evening Post. It is as follows:

“ Mr. Lewis has permitted me to copy his father’s receipt, both for gathering and administering the plant; which, as to one or two particulars, differs from all others.

A recipe for the bite of a mad dog.—Take the plant called scull-cap, gathered either before dog-days be-

gin, or after they are over, (that is, *before the 30th of July, and after the 10th of September,*) and cure it in the shade. Cut it fine, and bottle it up close. Of this powder make a decoction as strong as common tea, and give to an adult, half a pint night and morning fasting; to a child of three years old, one gill; to a child of eight years, one and a half gill; to a child of twelve years, two gills.

The patient, on every third day, during the period of taking the decoction, must miss taking it, and instead of it, must take two tea-spoons full of powdered *roll of brimstone*, with molasses, or sufficient to procure a free passage. Continue this course for forty days.

The patient must abstain from butter or milk, or any thing of a greasy nature in his diet, and wholly from spirituous liquors. It is important also that he should not wet his feet:

Mr. Lewis was soon called upon to administer to the relief of such of his neighbours as had unfortunately been bitten by mad animals; and, from his great success, he acquired very considerable reputation in that part of the country where he resided. He continued this practice till his death, in 1810, and it is believed that he gave the scutellaria, and with success, to nearly one hundred persons, and to twenty or thirty animals.

I am informed that Mr. Ezra Fontaine, of Bedford, West Chester county, had a herd of hogs bitten by a mad dog; and, that at the suggestion of Mr. Lewis, the herd was divided, and a part of them committed to his care, while the others had no remedies; these

all died rabid ; but none of those were indisposed to which he gave the scutellaria. The same thing is related of a herd of swine belonging to Mr. William Carpenter of North Castle.

Lewis was anxious to keep his remedy a secret in his family. To prevent discovery, he always cut up the herb very fine, before he dispensed it. Several of his neighbours, observing his increasing reputation for preventing hydrophobia, employed effectual means to discover his remedy. He communicated the secret to his children, James, Jesse, and Mary.

James Lewis, of North Castle, West Chester county, a weaver by occupation, has had occasion to give the scutellaria in fifteen or twenty cases, and his success has been equal to that of his father.

For a part of this information respecting Daniel and James Lewis, I am indebted to my friend A. R. Griffin, M. D. of this city, who, at my particular instance, visited James Lewis, and received from him a detailed history of the use of the scutellaria by his family. The remaining part, I obtained by personal interviews with Jesse Lewis and his sister Mary.

Jesse Lewis, of Mamaroneck, West Chester county, about the year 1790, began to use the scutellaria, as a cure for the bite of rabid animals. He says that he has given the plant to about one hundred persons ; two of which had previously had symptoms of hydrophobia. These were Mr. John Powers, and a Mr. Briggs.

John Powers of Mamaroneck, was bitten in the leg, about sixteen years ago ; he lived in the same

house with Lewis, but having no faith in the scullcap, he declined taking it, although repeatedly urged to do so. Twenty-one days after the accident, Powers became sick, his mind was greatly disturbed, and he complained of a pain in the back part of his neck. When in bed, he fancied himself suspended in the air, a little above the bed. He now desired Lewis to give him the tea. After taking of it a few times, which he was able to do without any difficulty, as his deglutition was unimpaired, he became rational, and by continuing its use recovered.

Mr. Briggs, who lives near Kingsbridge, called on Mr. Lewis about the middle of July, 1819, forty-two days after he had been bitten by a rabid animal. He complained of "a burning pain in his breast, and a heavy dull pain in his head." He took plentifully of the scullcap, and was quite well in two weeks.

"About five years ago," says Mr. Coleman, Evening Post of 23d May, 1811, "a mad dog, at Pelham's manor, being a small favourite, and running about the house, bit no less than nine persons in one family, to these the scullcap was administered by Lewis without delay, and no one experienced the least inconvenience. Two hogs in the neighbourhood were bitten also by the same dog, at the same time, which were shut up, and nothing was administered, both of them went mad and died of hydrophobia."

In the Evening Post of the 21 December, 1811, Mr. Coleman says, "I have myself seen a convincing proof of the efficacy of Lewis' remedy. A couple of hogs in the neighbourhood in which I reside, were bitten by a mad dog, and several cattle were also

bitten by the same dog, some before and some after the biting of the hogs. Mr. Lewis was sent for, and gave his preparation to the two hogs, both of which, though much wounded, recovered without any signs of madness, while every one of the cattle, having taken nothing to prevent the consequences, died of hydrophobia."

About the year 1809, Robert Bowne, Esq. a distinguished philanthropist of the city of New-York, became satisfied of the power of scutellaria to prevent hydrophobia. He collected, and published in a pamphlet, many important facts respecting the use of this plant by Dr. Van Derveer and the Lewises. This account, with additional testimony, was afterwards published in the New-York Medical Repository, and in Thacher's Observations on Hydrophobia.

Mr. Bowne in his publication says, " Instances have, I believe, occurred of several animals being bitten by dogs considered mad, and the Lewises, when applied to, have, in order to prove the value of their medicine, requested the owners of the animals to place one apart, which being done, they saved all the rest; and the one so placed apart died with every symptom of the hydrophobia."

Uriah Field, says the same writer, had, a few years since, some of his family and a number of cows and hogs bitten by a mad dog. He sent for Lewis, who gave him the scullcap and directions for its use. Mr. Field sold one of the cows to a neighbour, with injunctions that he should continue the use of the plant, which however was neglected, and the cow

died rabid, while Field's family and the other animals remained well.

About the year 1798, also, Samuel Wilson, near Croton river, had several of his cattle bitten by a mad dog; at the same time his neighbour, Daniel Underhill had two hogs; Nathaniel Smith, one cow; and Edward Mead, five hogs bitten, all of which died of hydrophobia, except the hogs belonging to Mead, and to them scullcap was administered by Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Albert Smith, student in medicine of New-Rochelle has communicated to me the following cases:

Some years ago a son of Elijah Williams, Esq. of West Chester, and a black man belonging to the family of Isaac Briggs, were bitten by a mad dog; Lewis was employed to administer the scutellaria to them, and neither of them had any symptoms of disease; although three hogs, and a sheep, which were bitten at the same time, died rabid.

The Rev. Mr. Bartow has published the case of James P. Huntington, of New-Rochelle, who was bitten in the hand by a mad dog, in April, 1811. He was treated by Lewis and suffered nothing. Two of Huntington's blood hounds were bitten at the same time; one of them ran away, and the other died with symptoms of rabies canina.

Mary Lewis, the daughter of Daniel Lewis, married Jesse Williams, carman of New-York. Williams and his wife have given the herb to more than fifty persons, and in no instance has there been any symptoms of hydrophobia, except in the case of James Cann.*

Mr. John Ferris, of North-Castle, West Chester county, says he discovered the practice of Daniel Lewis thirty years ago; and, that he has administered the scullcap in forty or fifty cases with uniform success.

Mr. Samuel Adams, druggist, of New-York, has lately collected, and has now on hand, large quantities of the scutellaria. During the last summer he distributed it gratuitously to more than one hundred and thirty persons, who had been so unfortunate as to be bitten, by animals supposed to be rabid.

A number of persons, in different states, have been supplied with this plant from Mr. Coleman's office, and from the hands of others who had gathered it; and it is not known that hydrophobic symptoms have arisen in any instance after its use.

About the year 1811, Mr. Coleman having been frequently in West Chester county, became convinced that the scutellaria was an antidote against the rabies canina; and has frequently called the attention of the public to the use of this plant, as a preventive of hydrophobia; and, through the medium of his paper, has done more to diffuse a general knowledge of its virtues, to inspire public confidence in it, and to bring it into general use, than any other person.

In consequence of Mr. Bowne's publication, Dr. Thacher, an eminent physician of Massachusetts, was induced to make use of the scutellaria for a child bitten by a mad dog. The case is related in the New-York Medical Repository, New Series, vol. i. p. 175. The doctor says, he "directed a strong infusion of the scutellaria lateriflora to be

taken twice a day; and that it was faithfully persevered in during twenty-five days, yet on the thirtieth day the patient was attacked with hydrophobia, and died."

Since the publication of this account, some doubts have been entertained as to the quantity of scutellaria, absolutely taken by the boy; therefore, letters were written to doctor Thacher, both by Mr. Coleman and myself for more precise information on that point. In his answers, he says, "to my queries respecting the manner in which the scullcap had been administered, the reply was that my directions were pursued during twenty-five days; but, a more particular inquiry, at a future period, led to the persuasion that, from the want of confidence in the remedy, and a disposition to indulge the caprice of the child, the quantity actually taken was so very small, that it could not be considered as a fair test of the preventive powers of scutellaria."

We find recorded in Thacher on Hydrophobia, that the Hon. Levi Bartlett, M. D. of Kingston, New-hampshire, advised the use of scutellaria for three herds of swine, which were bitten by a mad dog in the summer of 1811; and, that on the eighth day after the accident, to each hog bitten was administered twice a day, from a quart to three pints of a strong decoction of the scutellaria, mixed with Indian meal; till the hogs were taken with rabies, which was from the 10th to the 15th day after they began the use of the decoction. Six of the hogs, out of the nine bitten at that time, and thus treated with scutellaria, died of hydrophobia.

Doctor Bartlett has transmitted to me a specimen of the plant used for those hogs; it is the genuine *scutellaria lateriflora*. He has also forwarded to me the certificates of the owners of the hogs; there can, therefore, be no doubt that those hogs took very largely of a strong decoction of the genuine plant. These certificates mention a circumstance, which I do not recollect to have heard before, which is, that two of these hogs died almost instantly from having cold water dashed upon them.*

Stephen W. Williams,[†] M. D. and his father, both of Deerfield, Massachusetts, have prescribed the *scutellaria* for about thirty persons, and for forty or fifty brutes which had been bitten; and in no instance did hydrophobia appear. In the doctor's letter to me of the 13th August, 1819, he says, "A Mr. Williams, of Heath, in this county, had, in the autumn of 1813, a valuable cow and an ox bitten, at the same time, by a mad fox. He applied to us for the *scutellaria*; we had only enough for one animal; he prized his cow more highly than his ox, and was very anxious to save her; he therefore gave the whole of the scullcap to his cow, and suffered the ox to take his chance without any medicament. The ox died, exhibiting the aggravated symptoms of hydrophobia, while the cow had no indisposition.

* It does not, however, appear that these hogs were restricted in diet, or took the sulphur; both of which were constituent parts in Lewis' method of cure.

Case of Hydrophobia, published in the New-York Evening Post of 16th July, 1819.

“ Early on Thursday morning, the 10th June, I was called upon by James Cann, who requested me to dress his right hand, which had just been bitten by a dog, which he believed was mad. Upon examination, I found the dog’s teeth had penetrated deep into the muscular part of the thumb, between its metacarpal bone and that of the fore finger, and that the skin was but little lacerated. From the situation and depth of the wound, I deemed extirpation inexpedient, and directed superficial dressings, telling him at the same time, if the dog should prove to have been mad, he had nothing to fear, as a plant had been discovered, (shewing him a drawing of the scullcap in the Evening Post,) which had never been known to fail in such cases, when properly administered. In the evening I saw him again, and then advised him to call on Jesse Williams, the son-in-law of the late Mr. Lewis, of West-Chester, and procure from him a quantity of scullcap. He did so, and obtained about three ounces of the dried herb, finely cut up, with directions to put a tea-spoon full and an half of it in a quart of warm water, and to drink half a pint of this infusion, morning and night, for two successive days, and on the third to omit it, and take a tea-spoon full of flowers of sulphur. In this manner, Williams directed the scullcap and sulphur to be alternately used for forty days; during which time, exercise was to be avoided, and an abstemious diet observed: he thought the wound required no other attention than simple dressing. Mr. Cann strictly

followed the above directions, and remained free from complaint till Thursday the 17th. About noon he was suddenly taken ill, and sent for me. I found him labouring under frightful spasms of the muscles of the face and neck; his face was drawn towards the right shoulder, his head convulsively shaken, he ground his teeth with violence, his eyes had a wild and terrific stare, and his whole aspect was appalling; but the spasms soon subsided, and he became perfectly calm. Upon enquiry, I found he was first attacked with a shivering, then a pricking or tingling sensation about the parts bitten, extending over the hand, and running up the arm, accompanied with slight involuntary twitchings of the muscles of the hand and arm; to these succeeded a sense of tightness about the chest and throat; immediately after which, followed the convulsive action of the muscles of the face and neck, above described. I found his pulse and breathing regular and natural during the intervals; but when the paroxysms were approaching, they became hurried and irregular, and continued so till the spasms had gone off, when he complained of slight pain in the right breast, together with a soreness and stiffness of the back part of the neck. Liquids he took without difficulty, nor did pouring water from one vessel to another, in his presence, produce any perceptible distress; neither did the sight of the surface of a polished mirror, or the waving of a white curtain, sensibly affect him. His paroxysms returned at irregular intervals of from five to ten minutes; their duration being from one to two minutes. His bowels being constipated, I gave him

a scruple of calomel, and directed him to drink his tea (which, upon inspection, I found very weak) as strong as it could be made—to take it warm, and in as large quantities as his stomach would bear—using it as his only drink.*

“ 18th. Early in the morning, Dr. Robson saw him with me, and continued to see him afterwards. We learnt that some unauthorised person had taken ten or twelve ounces of blood from his arm the night before; that his cathartic had operated freely during the night; he had taken largely of his tea, and thought himself better; the spasms, however, still severe, but not quite so frequent. We directed him to continue his tea as yesterday.

“ 19th. This morning we found him cheerful; he had passed a tolerably good night; feels much better than yesterday; his spasms moderating considerably, both in violence and frequency. He still continued his tea as before. In the afternoon, a shower of rain fell, at sight of which, and the rippling of the water in the gutter, his spasms returned in quick succession, and with more violence than they had done at any other time during the day, and produced in him such sensations that, to use his own expression, he could not bear to look at it, and was obliged to turn away.

“ 20th. We saw him about noon; he was not so well; his spasms rather more frequent and severe, leaving him with a disagreeable feeling in his head, and an acute pain in the back of his neck. Upon

* Mrs. Williams, the daughter of Lewis, being informed of Cann's violent attack, sent him word by his wife, that he must make his tea as strong as lye, and drink it warm, and as much as he could bear. *Ed. E. P.*

inquiring whether he still continued his tea, he replied, that, at Williams' direction, it was omitted for the purpose of taking a dose of sulphur; on which we immediately ordered his scullcap to be resumed, and not again to omit it, unless directed by us; he did so, and again found his spasms to subside.

"21st. He said he felt like a new man; his spasms had nearly left him; still continued in the use of his tea as before.

22d. He had no spasms, nor did he complain of any thing but weakness. We directed him to continue in the use of the scullcap three or four weeks longer.

July 13th. We saw him; he felt no uneasiness whatever, and has been free from complaint ever since we last visited him.

"To enable the reader to form just conclusions respecting the character of the above case, we will state the result of our inquiries and observations, concerning the rabid state of the animal which had inflicted the bite.

"The dog was young and gentle, and had never shown marks of ill temper until the day before he bit Cann, when he snapped at, and attempted to bite a man, without provocation, who heretofore had been familiar with him. He was confined over night, but broke loose early next morning, the 10th, when Cann on his way to work met him; the dog came trotting along, and Cann thinks would have gone on without noticing him, if he had not when opposite called him by name, and was in the act of patting his head when the dog seized him by the hand, made two

snaps, and passed on without looking up; a few yards further he snapped at and quarrelled with three strange dogs; he next bit a neighbour's dog with whom he was accustomed to play; and, as an apprentice of his master was attempting to tie him with a rope, he snapped at and tore off a part of his trowsers.

“ Behaviour like this, so opposite to his usual mildness, excited serious apprehension; he was immediately tied in a wood-house. While thus confined, he eat sparingly, but lapped water freely; he snapped at his master, was restless, howling violently, and gnawing furiously at the door of his prison. By the evening, when we saw him, he had gnawed a large hole through the door, in doing which he had lacerated his mouth, and broken off several of his teeth against the nails of the battening. At this time, after many attempts, he lapped a little water, and then upset the vessel which contained it; refused food, and snapped at the approach of his master; his eyes were watery and dull, sometimes closed, then suddenly opened, when he snapped at imaginary objects. He now broke his rope, and as no one dared to approach him to replace it, believing him mad, he was shot. Our next inquiry was after the dogs which had been bitten by this one, but we found they had all been destroyed, except the one last mentioned.

“ This dog was secured the same day he was bitten, and put in a cool, airy, and dry cellar: he was regularly fed, and continued well until the 6th of July. He then began to show symptoms of ca-

nine madness: the under jaw fell, his food dropped from his mouth, when he attempted to eat; he made many efforts to drink, frequently burying his nose in the water, but did not appear to swallow; he was obedient to his master's commands, was dull and moping, but would occasionally snap at imaginary objects, in the air or on the floor; his eyes were languid and watery, and considerable frothy saliva was discharged from his mouth. In the course of the next day, (the 7th) he was much weaker, particularly in the hinder parts, producing slight staggering; his tongue was livid and brown, slimy fluid was observed to run out of his mouth. On the 8th, he would snap at his chain, or any object that touched him; was thirsty, and lapped water very frequently, without being able to swallow any; his tongue was darker, and his debility increased rapidly; he would not eat, and staggered very much when he attempted to walk.

" 9th. The dog appeared much weaker; seldom got up, except by compulsion, and soon fell down again. He appeared blind in his right eye, his back much curved.

" 10th. He was unable to stand; had spasmodic twitchings of all his muscles; would yet snap at any object that touched him; towards evening he grew worse, and died sometime in the night.

" The above statement of facts was drawn up for publication, at the request of several respectable gentlemen, and is submitted without remark.

(Signed.) W. STILLWELL,
BENJAMIN R. ROBSON."

I am under obligations to Dr. Fisk of Massachusetts, for the following case; it was procured for me by the politeness of my friend Stephen W. Williams, M. D. and was published in the Evening Post of September 7th, 1819.

Montague, (Mass.) August 22, 1819.

Dear Sir—I send you the particulars of a case that occurred in my practice, leaving it to you to dispose of it in any manner that you may judge proper.

Mrs. H——, belonging to this town, of a healthy constitution, twenty-four years of age, was bitten on the 5th day of July last, by a puppy four months old, supposed by herself and her friends, to be mad. The following were the marks he showed of rabies:— On Saturday, the 3d. he refused his accustomed food; appeared stupid and sickly, head and ears hanging down, and showed no disposition for playfulness. On the 4th, still refused to eat; his eyes were red, dull and full of tears; and his mouth covered with apparently tough and frothy slime; he frequently staggered and fell down; sometimes started up quick, and attempted to run, but could not get straight forward; took little notice of any thing; towards evening snapped at objects, but never barked. On Monday morning he became furious; ran at every thing that came in his way, and attempted to bite; at length actually did bite the lady above mentioned on the ball of the thumb, making four incisions through the skin. He was then immediately killed. On the same day she sent for me, and I advised the immediate use of the scullcap; but, not having any on hand,

I was only able to procure some of another person, which had been gathered two years before, and had lain exposed to the open air, in a box; with directions to give it every other day, as prescribed by Dr. Thacher. She did so, and the wound healed in a few days, with no unpleasant symptoms. But on the fifteenth day after the bite, she felt a slight pain or itching in the part bitten, which soon became a little elevated, and a circumscribed inflamed spot, about the size of a sixpence, arose and extended over the cicatrix of one of the marks of the dog's teeth; soon afterwards, she felt a fixed pain in the wrist, which extended to her elbow, and shortly increased and reached to her shoulder; wandering pains in her back and joints succeeded; she felt a painful and strange sensation in her head, and sometimes also a giddiness, so that she could not walk straight forwards; she now complained of lassitude, with stricture and heaviness in her breast, accompanied with difficulty of breathing. On perceiving these alarming symptoms, I concluded that the plant had lost its virtues by age and exposure, and endeavoured to procure some of recent growth, which fortunately I obtained and in blossom; of this I ordered a strong decoction to be taken immediately, in doses of half a pint each, four times a day; to be suspended every other day, and a table spoon full of flowers of sulphur in new milk to be taken in its stead. For the greater precaution, I also punctured the bitten part, which discharged a little watery fluid, and applied to it the bruised leaves of the plant, which I renewed once every four or six hours. On the 16th day, symp-

tions were but little abated, and her pulse somewhat depressed ; but she had slept more quietly. The 17th, the pain, excepting in her wrist and head, had subsided, the bite had lost its redness, and she had slept still better. On the 18th, she said she felt quite well, excepting a little weakness. She kept the application on the wound two days longer, when it healed, and she left it off, but continued to take the decoction, though with diminished strength, three weeks longer, but has experienced no pain or unpleasant sensation since the 18th day, enjoying her usual good health, and going about her domestic labours as formerly.

The above symptoms were noted down at the time of their appearance. Mrs. H. is by no means of a nervous temperament, but resolute, and she followed my prescription with much confidence.

I am, sir,

Yours, respectfully,

PETER FISK."

We have then the foregoing testimony that the scutellaria has been used by more than eight hundred and fifty persons, bitten by animals believed to be rabid ; and in only three instances,* have symptoms supposed to be hydrophobic supervened, and in each of these cases, the quantity of the plant actually taken, was very inconsiderable. In two of them, the symptoms disappeared on taking more freely of the medicine.

* Mr. Coleman has repeatedly called on the public to communicate to him a single well attested case of the failure of the scutellaria ; but no such case has yet appeared.

Furthermore, the scutellaria is said to have been administered to more than eleven hundred brutes, bitten by animals supposed to be rabid, and in no instance has any symptoms of madness appeared, excepting in the cases communicated by Dr. Bartlett.

In more than one hundred instances it is said that experiments have been made to test the antidotal powers of this plant, by giving it only to a part of the animals bitten ; and it is stated that in every experiment those animals, which did not take the scutellaria, have died rabid ; but, in no instance, have any of those, which took it, had any indisposition.

THE END.

ADDENDUM.

Doctor William G. Nice, of Manchester, Virginia, has communicated to the public, through the medium of the Richmond Enquirer,* an account of two black boys and two hogs, which were bitten by a mad dog in July, 1819. The wounds on the boys were cauterized; they took liberally of the scutellaria, and suffered nothing from their wounds. The hogs did not take the scutellaria, and they both died rabid.

* Republished in the Evening Post of the 5th of October, 1819.

